

# NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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## National Convention of Parents and Teachers, Miami, April 29 to May 3 To Consider Theme, "The Home—the Index to National Life"

Miami is the Mecca this month for hundreds of parent-teacher leaders from all parts of the United States, who will gather at the Miami Biltmore Hotel for the 39th Annual Convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, April 29 to May 3, to consider the theme, "The Home—The Index to National Life."

Delegates and visitors from every state will have an opportunity to exchange experiences and new ideas at the series of conferences and panel discussions during the week. Whether one is interested in education, the arts, homemaking, or the technics of conducting a parent-teacher association, the Convention program will offer something of interest and help.

Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, National President and Convention Program Chairman, has, with her assistants, spent much time in preparing for a worthwhile series of addresses, conferences, panel discussions, and forums on the Convention theme. Time, energy, and money have gone into the preparation of the program. Delegates have worked with interest and enthusiasm in preparation for the event and will travel far to take part in it. The lasting effect, the real value of the Convention will depend upon how well those attending use the information and the suggestions. Those in charge hope that the Convention will live on in better local programs, increased participation of members, broader vision for the future of the American home, and greater service for children.

Delegates should keep clear notes of their impressions of the Convention program, and also see that the recommendations, the resolutions, and the new, stimulating suggestions presented as features of the program are on file at the local unit headquarters when they return home.

Although the Convention proper does not open until

Monday morning, April 29, many interesting Pre-Convention activities have been scheduled as curtain raisers. Special committees of the National Board of Managers will meet on Friday, April 26, and the semi-annual conference of the state presidents, Mrs. Charles F. Pye, Chairman, and of the national committee chairmen, Mrs. Fred M. Raymond, Chairman, will be held on Friday evening. Convention exhibits will be placed on Friday also.

Following meetings of the National Board of Managers and the Executive Committee on Saturday, the Florida State Board will entertain the National Board at dinner at the Roney Plaza Cabana, Saturday evening.

The annual luncheon of the State Presidents' Club, composed of past presidents as well as active ones, is scheduled for Sunday noon, at the International Airport, with Mrs. W. J. Hockett presiding. The Tree Planting ceremony, honoring Mrs. Frederic Schoff, Honorary President, is to take place Sunday afternoon. At the Torch Bearers Dinner, Sunday evening, a tribute will be paid to the guests of honor, the Honorary Officers of the Congress: Mrs. Schoff, Mrs. E. T. Stotesbury, Mrs. William Thacher, Mrs. A. A. Birney, Mrs. Joseph M. Mumford, Mrs. Orville T. Bright, Mrs. Fred Dick, Mrs. David O. Mears, Mrs. Ella Caruthers Porter, Mrs. H. N. Rowell.

The National President will formally open the Convention on Monday morning, with an inspirational address, presenting the Convention theme, "The Home—The Index to National Life."

The Monday evening session will be devoted to the topic, "The Home—The Wellspring of Security," at which the Honorable Josh Lee, Representative from Oklahoma, will speak on the subject, "Take the Profits Out of War."



Left: The Ringling Art Museum at Sarasota, Florida, one of the major attractions of the state.

Right: Greek sponge boats at Tarpon Springs, Florida, where there are the largest sponge fisheries and exchange in the world.



Courtesy of the National Parent-Teacher Magazine

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## Varied Attractions Planned for Miami Convention

### Advice to Delegates

With the wide variety of conferences which will be conducted simultaneously each afternoon during the 39th Annual Convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, it is obvious that each person must carefully choose which ones to attend. Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, our National President, urges discrimination.

"To discriminate," she says, "is to understand the differing values in situations where we have the power of choice and to choose the best or the most fitting to the occasion." To delegates she gives this warning, "Study the Convention program and plan the way you will spend your time at Miami. Consider the unit of work or the project program of your organization for the coming year and try to attend the conferences best suited to aid you in solving your problems."

Delegates should talk with their chairmen and leaders at home before leaving for Florida, have their plans scheduled, leaving no decisions to chance.

### State Presidents' Club

Mrs. W. J. Hockett, President, will preside at the State Presidents' Club Luncheon to be held April 28 at the Pan American International Airways Terminal, with Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, National President, and Mrs. A. H. Reeve, Chairman of International Relations, as guest speakers. The four state presidents representing the oldest, youngest, largest, and smallest state Congresses will give short talks. These presidents are: California—Mrs. C. H. Turner (largest) with 185,029; New Hampshire—Mrs. Robert F. Crosby (smallest) with 2,203; New York—Mrs. Francis H. Blake (oldest—1897); and Hawaii—Mrs. W. W. Tuttle (youngest—1926). Mrs. A. F. Fanger, who was the first president of the Club when it was organized in 1928, is striving to make it a real reunion.

### Tree Planting

Mrs. Frederic Schoff, of Philadelphia, our beloved honorary president, will have a charming compliment paid her on Sunday afternoon, April 28, when the National Congress will plant in her honor a St. James breadfruit tree in Bay Front Park, on picturesque Biscayne Bay.

Mrs. Schoff, who was National President from 1902 to 1920, established the National Office in Washington. She acted as first editor-in-chief of our *Magazine*, then *Child Welfare*, now *The National Parent-Teacher Magazine*, serving as its editor from 1906 to 1922. During her administration, the first International Child Welfare Congress was held in 1908, two others being held in 1911 and 1914.

### Publications Conferences

The new Local Unit Package and the new *Parent-Teacher Manual* will form a part of the demonstration of the Publications Conferences to be held Tuesday afternoon, April 30, and Wednesday afternoon, May 1. Mrs. Frederick M. Hosmer, Chairman of Publications, will preside, assisted by Mrs. Francis H. Blake, President of New York Congress.

"The State Board Meets" is the title of the first demonstration and in it the state publications chairman presents the plan of work for the year, with the consideration of the practical use of Congress publications in every parent-teacher situation: in the district, in the council, in the local Congress unit, with suggestions for extension work through exhibits at educational meetings, at Fairs, and wherever opportunity offers.

"The District Conference in Session" is the second division of the Tuesday conference and in it the district publications chairman speaks under three heads: (1) strengthening parent-teacher work through the intelligent use of Congress materials; (2) specific helps that are available; (3) the value of the Congress library in the council with the loan service to the local unit, and the value of a Congress library in a local Congress unit.

The Publications Conference on Wednesday dramatizes "The Executive Committee of the P.T.A. Meets," and in it shows the Local Unit Package arriving and the practical use of Congress publications in terms of the local Congress unit. The second half of the program dramatizes "The Program Committee of the P.T.A. Meets," and it will show how to use the Congress publications for building the program and developing projects.

### "Hansel and Gretel"

Rudolph Thomas, who has conducted a special orchestra and school for young conductors at Teachers College, Columbia University, has the entire musical direction of Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" which the National Music League will present on Thursday evening, May 2. Mr. Thomas believes that this opera has, above all others, the greatest appeal for young people. The fairy tale story, delightful music, and imaginative quality of the opera appeal particularly to children, although the opera is a popular favorite with adults as well.

One of the purposes of the National Music League's presentation of this particular opera at the Convention is to interest the delegates in the possibilities of opera for the development of musical appreciation in children. Not only is the colorful production a pleasant form of recreation but it and its kind have wide possibilities for the cultural growth of the child.

### Entertainment Plans

Florida Congress members are full of plans embodying the southern hospitality to be shown the delegates who come down to Miami for the National Convention. All over the state, local P.T.A. groups are arranging for entertainment for the visitors who either before or after the Convention may wish to see Ravine Gardens, Palatka, Government Hatcheries, Wekaka, Silver Springs and Ocala, and the numerous other points of interest while they are in the citrus state.

The St. John's County P.T.A.'s have invited the members of the National Board of Managers to spend a day in historic St. Augustine at the close of the Convention in Miami. Cars will be provided for sightseeing to all points of interest in the beautiful old city. The Civic Center will be used as a headquarters for delegates, and members of the local P.T.A. will be on duty to act as hostesses and to give information.

From Fort Myers comes an invitation of the Lee County Council P.T.A. for delegates to stop at their entertainment headquarters en route to or from Miami. Each visitor will be presented with a souvenir.

### Havana by Boat or Air

In view of the interest being shown by members of the National Congress in a Post-Convention trip from Miami to Havana, we give below information regarding transportation facilities.

The trip may be made via the scenic Over-Sea Railway route to Key West, thence a six-hour boat trip across the Florida Straits. For the week-end trip, the train leaves Saturday morning, May 4, at 7:20, arriving back in Miami on Monday night at 10:20. The round-trip fare is \$24, which includes meals and stateroom berth on the steamer while at sea.

Pan American Airways offer daily service to Havana. The trip by air requires about two hours, and the round-trip fare is \$35.

Havana hotel rates are reasonable during the summer season—from \$2 per day European, and \$4.50 per day up, American plan. The various hotels operate sightseeing trips, visiting all points of interest with English speaking guides at very low rates.

It is said that the strikes and disturbances in Cuba have been cleared up now and visitors are not only safe but most welcome. There is little in the way of known entertainment that the romantic city of Havana cannot provide, and with an original touch that is typical. It has been called an old-world gem perched on Florida's front door step.

## Child Health Day

Diphtheria immunization has been chosen by the May Day Committee of the State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America as the May Day-Child Health Day project for 1935, a choice of which the National Congress of Parents and Teachers especially approves, very naturally, as its Summer Round-Up plan always includes immunization for diphtheria as a much stressed point.

The objective of the plan is to immunize all children between the ages of six months and six years, and to maintain this as a continuing service. Concerted action by local units of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, working with State Departments of Health, the medical profession, and welfare workers should make the accomplishment of this objective possible. The task is to assist in making information on the need of immunization available to all parents, in all communities, stressing it, and urging them to act without delay.

"Immunize now, stamp out diphtheria," was chosen as a slogan because there has been practically no reduction since 1930 in the number of deaths from diphtheria throughout the United States. Some states have accomplished a marked reduction, hence it follows that others have a proportionate increase, indicating that the proven method of prevention has not been satisfactorily applied.

Local chairmen of the Summer Round-Up of the National Congress should note that May 1 is the closing date of Round-Up registration for groups who wish to compete for the certificate awards. Last year many groups were disappointed in the matter of certificates because they did not register in time.

## Vacation Activities Near

The proximity of a playground has a direct relation to a child's chances for keeping out of trouble, says an eminent specialist in recreational activities for young people. With this in mind, parent-teacher associations in many states are already planning their summer vacation projects. As the spring afternoons lengthen and the hours between the end of the afternoon school session and dusk increase, it is vitally important to have interests and activities ready to keep children out of danger, and even out of mischief. More and more are communities, especially in the urban districts, taking cognizance of this fact. According to the reports that come into the National Office, parent-teacher groups are meeting this need in a variety of ways. Home garden contests are being planned, playgrounds are being sponsored, equipment bought and improved, with supervision provided after school hours. Athletic grounds are being found and equipped, and directors are being engaged for vacation play. Some local units, who look to the sultry days ahead, are working for a community bathing beach and adjoining playground, another is building a wading pool.

## Parent Education

How security may affect the child's relationship with the family and how it may be established from the earliest days of his life through consistent attitudes and reactions on the part of his parents is told in an article by Dr. Ethel B. Waring in the May issue of the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*. A very simple definition of your security, according to Dr. Waring, is your ability to predict what is going to happen to you. Security, she believes, is one essential in all whole-some relationships between people.

Methods of forming study groups in parent education is one of the topics to be considered by Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, National Chairman of Parent Education, in her conference on "Leadership in Parent Education" on Monday, April 29, at the Miami Convention. She will give sources of material for study groups, training needed for leadership of the group, how to keep up attendance, and methods of developing radio listening groups for child study progress.

Mrs. M. D. Wilkinson will lead the conference on the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* on Tuesday afternoon, and Mrs. Hugh Bradford will lead the Thursday afternoon session.

In order to help strengthen the work of state parent education extension specialists (in 13 states at the close of 1934) and the many county agents who are called upon for guidance and education in problems of family life and parent-hood, the National Council of Parent Education, is entering into a cooperative program of parent education with the Extension Division of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Arrangements have been made with the National Council whereby the services of Miss Lita Bane have been secured to aid during 1935 in the child care and development and parent education work of the Extension Service.

## National Music Week

President Roosevelt, in voicing his approval of National Music Week, May 5-11, says, in part: "I have a deep conviction that people who love music strive also for the best in other things. I am glad that this celebration is to continue year by year because music justly occupies a very great place in the cultural life of the people of our country. I believe also that the celebration of Music Week stimulates interest in music and that such a national endeavor should be generally supported."

Miss Mayme E. Irons, of Decatur, Illinois, Chairman of Music for the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, has voiced the support of the Congress for Music Week, the slogan of which is "Conserve Our Musical Assets."

The keynote suggests: "Let your Music Week activities bring about a greater use of your community's musical assets so that their value will be more apparent to your citizens, and thus the cause of music will

## Legislation

*Appropriations Act for Department of Agriculture*—The rider to this Act curbing the dissemination of information on nutrition was struck out on the floor of the Senate on March 29, after highly interesting and illuminating debate. The bill is now in conference.

*Federal Food and Drug Bill*—S. 5—*Copeland*—This Bill is now on the Senate calendar, having been reported out of the Commerce Committee on March 23 by a 9-6 committee vote. It is now before the Senate and will be debated on possibly today. It will then go to the House and be referred to the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

*Motion Pictures*—H. R. 6472—*Pettengill*—This Bill was introduced on March 6 by Hon. Samuel B. Pettengill, of the Third Indiana Congressional District. It is designed "To prohibit and to prevent the trade practices known as 'compulsory block-booking' and 'blind-selling' in the leasing of motion picture films in interstate and foreign commerce." Numerous expressions of approval of the Bill by well-known educators, churchmen, and civic leaders are being received daily. It is expected that hearings will be held sometime in April or May. Since Congressman Culkin thinks this Bill has a better chance of passage than his Bill, H. R. 2999, he is now supporting the Pettengill Bill.

*Economic Security Bill*—S. 1130—H. R. 4120—This Bill is still in committee. It has been entirely rewritten several times. What provisions will remain when it is reported is wholly problematical.

*Federal Aid for Schools*—H. J. Resolutions 117—There is reasonable assurance that funds will be provided through this relief act to keep schools open, although whether on a relief or on an educational basis will not be certain until the conference report has been accepted by both the Senate and House.

—Mary T. Bannerman.

be safeguarded amid the present trying conditions."

It is further mentioned that some of the Music Week programs should demonstrate practically the essential part which music plays in our life activities. They may illustrate (a) music in its relation to the other arts—literature, the pictorial arts, the drama, the dance, the cinema and radio—as well as (b) music in world history, (c) in religion, (d) as an aid to work, (e) in leisure time.

The 250th anniversaries of Bach and Handel will be a part of the celebration.

David Sarnoff is the new leader of the movement for National Music Week, heading an intensive effort toward the preservation and greater use of music as a vital community force. He succeeds the late Otto H. Kahn, who had been chairman since Music Week's inception twelve years ago.

# News from State Branches

## California

California Parent-Teacher Day will be celebrated at the California-Pacific International Exposition at San Diego on May 30 as a part of the 36th annual convention of the California Congress of Parents and Teachers, to be held in San Diego, May 27 to 31. Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, National President, will be honored at a dinner and reception preceding the convention. She will meet separate district groups at their district dinner on Tuesday, May 27.

## Illinois

Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, National President, was one of the guest speakers at the Mid-west Conference on Homemaking in Chicago, under the joint auspices of the Illinois Congress, the Household Science Institute, and 20 other leading organizations of the Mid-west. The speakers included Ruth O'Brien, Chief of the U. S. Textile Division, who spoke on "How to Be a Better Buyer"; Dr. Josephine Pierce, Vicepresident, General Federation of Women's Clubs, "Do You Know, or Do You Guess When Buying?"; A. Lawren Brown, American Association of Economic Education, "The Science of Money Management"; Faith McCauley, Administrative Dietician, Illinois Emergency Relief, "Problems in Purchase of Food"; and Dr. Adelaide S. Baylor, "Vocational Guidance."

## Maryland

A delegation of members of the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers from Baltimore and every county in the state, visited Annapolis and appeared before the Education Committees of the House and Senate to request restoration of pay cuts for all teachers in state schools.

The delegates, led by Mrs. H. Ross Coppage, President of the Maryland Congress, also plan to fight the proposed state school budget, which requires the counties to carry a larger proportion of school costs than in previous years.

Other proposals in the budget to which the organization is opposed include a decrease of \$250,000 in the "tax reduction fund," provisions for only one-half of highschool transportation costs, and failure to provide more teachers to care for increased highschool enrolments.

A bill is pending in the Legislature which would restore one-half of the pay cuts of state teachers, made two years ago. In spite of rapidly rising living costs, no provision has been made for restoration of any part of the pay loss.

To gain support for the bill, officers of the Maryland Congress have written to every member of the Legislature, as well as to city and county leaders, pointing out the necessity of its passage.

## Alabama

Since the beginning of the new year, Mrs. James Fitts Hill, President of the Alabama Congress, and the chairman of membership have conducted 17 countywide one-day parent-teacher conferences.

## Maine

Mrs. Haven Sawyer, President of the Maine Congress, is Secretary of the Commission for the Survey of Education, appointed by Governor Brann. The P.T.A. is making a determined effort to secure equalized educational opportunities for the children of Maine, and as a result of this interest an organization known as "The Friends of Education" has been formed, with Mrs. Sawyer as acting chairman. Other state organizations are cooperating in this organization, the aim of which is to secure passage of the necessary legislation to make effective the recommendations of the Commission.

## South Dakota

"Every radio station in the state has expressed not only a willingness but a desire to cooperate in broadcasting P.T.A. programs. Several of them have been carrying on such programs for years. If associations and councils will make arrangements with their nearest broadcasting station, without doubt they can obtain ample time on the air."

"Newspapers are usually willing to give advance publicity to such a project, and interest in parent-teacher work can be increased thereby. During the month of January and the first half of February, 19 parent-teacher programs were broadcast in the state. Many more are promised for next month."—A. A. Applegate, State Radio Chairman.

## Texas

The Texas Congress includes in its plan of work for 1934-37 this objective: "To bring about a wiser use of radio by both parent and child. This requires the fostering of better broadcasting and the cultivation of better listening."

## Washington

In line with suggestions to use every available channel in stimulating public action to support parent-teacher work, the publicity committee of the Washington Congress is sponsoring a project in outdoor advertising. An advertising firm has offered to donate poster board space throughout the state for 30 days during the period October, 1935, to May, 1936. To create widespread interest, a statewide poster contest has been launched from which a suitable design, symbolic of parent-teacher objectives, will be selected and used later on the poster boards.

## Kentucky

The Kentucky Congress of Parents and Teachers has been holding a "News and Feature Story Contest" for its publicity chairmen. Niel Plummer and the Department of Journalism, University of Kentucky, at Lexington, are judging the contest.

## New York

The New York Congress is cooperating with state branches of other national organizations in the campaign for ratification of the Child Labor Amendment, by the State Legislature. Parent-teacher presidents have been urged to work with the citizen committees formed in various communities throughout the state. A study course on the Amendment has been found very helpful in supplying information greatly needed to answer arguments against the Amendment. This information is supplied to entire state P.T.A. membership by mailings to presidents and an article in the *New York Parent-Teacher Bulletin*. In addition, the activity of the state legislative chairman at the state capitol, the resolutions in favor of the Amendment sent from units and parent-teacher members to their state and assemblymen, as well as personal interviews with these representatives, and communications direct from state headquarters to the legislators, are an important part in the campaign.

## North Carolina

Dr. Bess Goodykoontz, of Washington, D. C., Assistant United States Commissioner of Education, will speak on "The Social Side of the Child's Development" at the 16th annual convention of the North Carolina Congress to be held in Asheville, April 16-18, with the theme, "Today's Child in Tomorrow's World." Other topics are "Responsibility of Educating for Tomorrow's World," "The Responsibility of the Home to the Child," and "Training Parents for Tomorrow's World."

## Wisconsin

A new type of program arrangement has been planned by the Wisconsin Congress for their annual convention at Kenosha, May 14, 15, and 16. Wednesday morning will be devoted to sectional programs under three general divisions of interest—rural, elementary, and highschool. Key speakers will move from section to section and discuss major topics of parent-teacher interest from the standpoint of the needs of each group. Speakers on very specific interests will also meet with each section.